

Serial No.: 10/737,282
Attorney Docket No.: F-748

Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A printer comprising:

a print head;

a purge unit for removing ink from the print head; and

an ink tray assembly for receiving ink removed from the print head by the purge unit;

wherein the ink tray assembly includes:

a tray having an opening;

an absorbent pad held in the tray under ~~the~~ a cover membrane;

~~a vapor permeable~~ the cover membrane is a vapor permeable membrane sealed across the opening of the tray and formed at least in part as a bellows; and

a hole in the cover membrane for sealing to a port of the purge unit.

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The ~~postage meter printer~~ according to claim 3, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the cover membrane.

5. (currently amended) The ~~postage meter printer~~ according to claim 4, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) The ~~postage meter printer~~ according to claim 1, wherein the cover membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

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8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 1, wherein the cover membrane is of a material adapted to allow vapor to evaporate through the material and to substantially prevent waste ink from passing through the material.

10. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 9, wherein the material includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

11. (currently amended) A printer comprising:

a print head;

a purge unit for removing ink from the print head; and

an ink tray assembly for receiving ink removed from the print head by the purge unit;

wherein the ink tray assembly includes:

a tray; and

barrier means, bonded to a rim of the tray, for substantially preventing waste ink from exiting the tray upon an upside-down orientation of the tray, wherein the barrier means includes a membrane that substantially closes an opening of the tray and wherein the membrane is formed at least in part as a bellows.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the ink tray assembly also includes:

an absorbent pad held in the tray under the membrane.

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14. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 13, further comprising a hole in the membrane for sealing to a port of the purge unit.

15. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 14, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the membrane.

16. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 15, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.

17. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) The ~~postage-meter-printer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the barrier means includes a material adapted to allow vapor to evaporate through the material.

20. (currently amended) A waste ink tray assembly for use in a printer, the assembly comprising:

a tray;

an absorbent pad held in the tray; and

barrier means, bonded to a rim of the tray, for substantially preventing waste ink from exiting the tray upon an upside-down orientation of the tray, wherein the barrier means includes a membrane that substantially closes an opening of the tray and wherein the membrane is formed at least in part as a bellows.

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21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 20~~1~~, further comprising a hole in the membrane for sealing to a port of a waste ink purge unit.

23. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 22, wherein the absorbent pad has a channel therein positioned in alignment with the hole in the membrane.

24. (original) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 23, wherein the tray includes a post extending upwardly from a floor of the tray and engaged by the channel in the absorbent pad.

25. (currently amended) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 20~~1~~, wherein the membrane includes at least one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The waste ink tray assembly according to claim 20, wherein the barrier means includes a material adapted to allow vapor to evaporate through the material.